

ANCIENT
SKILLS
AND
WISDOM
REVIEW

Edited and published by: Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25 2AT. Subscription £2. Quarterly.

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THE LEY HUNTER'S MANUAL by ALFRED WATKINS

(Pentacle Books, 6 Perry Road, Bristol 1. £2-25)

Chosen as "Ley Hunters' Library 1" this reprint has several reasons to be worthy of leading off what promises to be a stimulating series: its *raison d'être* as manual especially at a time when the subject continues to gain popularity; its historical context; and its author's ability to have been able in 1927 to see clearly how much peripheral material in the book could later be developed to make the earth mysteries a viable alternative to orthodox archaeology.

It remains the definitive guide to practical fieldwork in rediscovering the leys in Britain, the alignments linking the sacred sites, and Alfred Watkins argues that leys were early trackways constructed from the Neolithic period, often with trading as the reason behind their presence. However, since postwar times there has been a growing body of speculation and evidence to support more advanced theses, especially in the realm of a subtle energy grid. It is striking upon re-reading this book for the umpteenth time how all ley hunters should attempt in their further explorations to keep sight of the guidelines laid here and keep their feet on the ground. As Alfred Watkins stressed, fieldwork is far more important than home mapwork and armchair musing. The inspiration comes easiest in the field. Presumably this work was designed as a digest of his magnum opus, "The Old Straight Track", and to beam in on the essentials of his vision to make it easiest for others to follow in his tracks.

In spite of pontifications from the mental cripples in their institutionalized universities, there is a living world of reality in the countryside and which was also once the basis for the design of our cities and many of their principle features. This work explains this clearly in text, many pictures and diagrams. Being an inclusionist even, Alfred Watkins not only carefully marshalled the salient points into chapters and argued his points cogently, but also covered at the conclusion a multitude of other elements worthy in his wise opinion of noting for the benefit of future ley hunters -- such as the generation who will buy this book.

A measure of the man's character is discerned by closely reading his Chapter VII, in which he mentions among books which had helped, one by O.G.S. Crawford, the editor of "Antiquity" whose hatred of leys was so strong that he refused a paid advertisement for "The Old Straight Track". Nevertheless ley hunting was at that time a popular pastime with ramblers eager for such a work as this. It was published at two shillings as one of the very first paperbacks and the general Press and books in the "Detective in ..." series by Donald Maxwell had boosted the subject.

I understand that further additions to the series will include works by E.J. Eitel and Major F.C. Tyler. Anyone any other suggestions?

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PHENOMENA by JOHN MICHELL and ROBERT J. M. RICKARD

(Thames & Hudson. pb £1-95)

Maybe the choice of reviewing this book for both "A.S.W.R." and "International Times" fell upon me by more than coincidence, for coincidences are one of the subjects explored here and I first came across "Phenomena" co-author John Michell through an article by him in "I.T." in 1967, which introduced me to leys (felt as an old friend intuitively as has been the case with others), one of the many subjects covered here. In those days, as now, the underground Press gave expression to ideas alien to mainstream thought and I read each issue avidly and applauded the alternative Press's guts. It attacked, basically, bastions of society and one of these was -- and is -- the moribund scientific establishment.

At a different level it was the sage C.G. Jung who shrewdly pointed out that: "Restriction to material reality carves an exceedingly large chunk out of reality as a whole, but it nevertheless remains a fragment only, and all round it is a dark penumbra which one would have to call unreal or surreal." Or phenomenal as in "Phenomena".

"The subject matter here is that of a radically different conception of reality and how the usual interpretation of the events, when they are allowed to be discussed, are wrongly rationalized by orthodoxy in terms of selected aspects being accepted and explained in terms of a totality when they refer to only a minority of facets. This process of continually reconfirming that reality obeys cosy laws, such as that suddenly bursting into flames can only be caused by carelessness with matches, hides the awesome truth that an irrational reality also exists beyond our normal conceptions. This insistence that everything can be explained by "proven" laws is both the cornerstone -- and achilles heel -- of science. This book emphasizes incompatibilities within the scientific framework and focuses upon many areas of repeating experience which defy full, rational explanation.

What makes this book authoritative is the scope covered and care in cross-referencing throughout, plus the encouraging lack of pedantry or demand to press personal theories upon the reader, a feature which would have been applauded by the father of the multi-faceted subject, Charles Fort.

Subtitled "A Book of Wonders", the contents allow each aspect two pages with pictures and adequate text, on such bizarre subjects as frog showers, holes at the poles, phantom ships, disappearing islands, teleportation, cattle mutilation, wild people, fairies, UFOs, werewolves; lake monsters, the Ark, disappearances of people, levitation, SHC, BVCs and a multitude of other outlawed subjects -- at least as far as scientists are concerned. However, this book must make the reader concerned by sheer weight of evidence -- repeating evidence.

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THE SIRIUS MYSTERY by ROBERT K.G. TEMPLE (Futura, 95p).

INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE by CARL SAGAN & I.S. SHKLOVSKII (Picador, £1-75).

ACCORDING TO THE EVIDENCE by ERICH VON DANIEN (Souvenir, £4-50).

In the last issue of this magazine I identified my preference with a "phenomenal" rather than extraterrestrial existence for UFOs. These three books clearly point their horizons away from such a New Ufology concept, though with Sagan and his penpal it is all a case of an Aberfan of waste and with Wild Erick an ego trip of cosmic dimensions.

Bob Temple, however, creates an atmosphere of trust by the sheer investigative detail in his book (apparently a larger corpus exists in hardback), whereas a recent B.B.C.-2 broadcast cast doubts on his diagrams, though failing to challenge the strange rites of his subject matter, the Dogon tribe of Mali, who are associated with the star system of Sirius.

Temple spent eight years researching and writing this book, which poses the nature of the mystery and then follows from the publication by two anthropologists of "A Sudanese Sirius System". It works on the level of detective fiction with each clue mulled over and the question being continually rephrased until we are introduced to the explanation that the Dogon are the last of the Argonauts, "from whom they are quite literally descended." He then posits the possibility that "primitive Stone Age men were handed civilization on a platter by visiting extra-terrestrial beings, who left traces behind them for us to decipher....Today was the time when we were meant to discover these coded facts." The fish-tailed Oannes being the bringer of knowledge from Sirius. Yet Temple points out that "believers in flying saucers are incredulous that I am not one of them, since I have written a book on extraterrestrials and even maintain spaceships visited Earth in the past."

Interestingly, to link ancient astronaut possibilities and prehistoric technology, it is said that the Dogon raised stones to present the various positions of Venus geographically and the Sirius B orbital diagram (fig. 6) is eyecatchingly similar to Prof. Thom's megalithic ellipses. And while on the subject of heresies the lore surrounding the heavenly bodies focussed upon here will have special interest to Velikovskians.

But to return to Oannes, Temple says humanity dislikes slimy creatures and "people who have a pronounced fondness for such creatures often seem to be suffering from a pathological condition themselves." Well, I like amphibia especially and Andrew Weil, in "The Natural Mind", has claimed psychotics may be "the evolutionary vanguard of our species."

Temple has set me thinking and he hopes readers will be interested in exploring the ramifications of his work. Not a book to dismiss lightly.

S. & S. also refer to Oannes in their enormous work, in which is negligible and in which they seem to equate detail and stupendous length with authoratative credi- i- bility, whereas the book is blinkered and stunningly boring. Darwinians will find it fulfilling whereas independent thinkers will be repulsed. This book will endorse the feeling of all who have learned to view scientists with mistrust. Despite its title, anyone interested in the problems rained by ufology will finish the book none the wiser. Sagan, for instance, fails to reconcile on one page the seeming contradiction of saying UFOcontactee reports "follow the same pattern and stress the same points" only to then state on sightings: "The diversity of these reports is as striking as the observations themselves." He does not ask why should two aspects of the phenomenon be so divergent. And never mind the New Ufology.

And on to von Daniken. On page 334 he states: "You can safely credit me with a lot of imagination." You don't say Erich. With phrases such as, "If I, without vanity...." he boasts of the 35,000 articles he has written about him. Probably ten times more than that have been written on Harold Wilson (for American read Richard Nixon), but I've always reckoned that if his lips were moving he was lying. He lists a plethora of persons pilloried for their views and subsequently vindicated, but this is a ludicrous argument and the book hardly gets better. I spent an evening reading it with an attempt towards objectivity and just ended up infuriated by the waste of time. Such chestnuts as Nazca, anti-gravity, the Dogon, Cabrera's stones, etc....you get the picture? (Yes, we see). His concept of ufology/AA syndrome is now unfashionable so hopefully if we ignore him he'll go away. Some chance. But the real comment he makes which startled me was the fact that he has never seen a UFO. I've seen UFOs but never von D., so should I write a best-seller on his possible existence? Seriously Erich, at least we agree on an anti-Darwinian stance regarding the birth of human intelligence....but where were you when brains were handed out?

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MORE LIVES THAN ONE by JEFFREY IVERSON (Souvenir, £3-50; Pan 75p)

When I was 18 a friend and I were brief and abortive co-managers of a Teesside singer called Colleen Walker. Visiting her home in Stockton one day her mother recalled how Colleen had once gone into a trance while sitting before the fire and described a flood somewhere in the Mediterranean region in which she was drowned. A few days later her mother (who incidentally as Little Mary Hagan had been a famous singer second only at one time to Gracie Fields and had such hits as "Twiddle My Thumbs.....) was in a library and by chance opened a book in which was described the particular disaster.

The big question is whether Colleen had regressed to a past life or whether she had somehow travelled in time to this disaster location. Iverson favours incarnation after having studied all the angles suggested by tapes recorded by people hypnotised by Arnall Bloxham. The period detail given of the past by a Welsh housewife as a Jewess in a York massacre or a sailor having his leg blown off during the Napoleonic wars is beyond the capacities of all but scholars and Iverson checked the accuracy. Actual language of past eras is generally missing though the sailor/Mr Huxtable approximated with his old terms, but this he may have mentally picked up from the period. As for York of 1190 it is strange that two present day street names appear, as if two periods merge.

However, the subject matter has been approached with impartiality by Iverson, a Cardiff TC producer, and he invited Magnus Magnusson, the TV personality and archaeologist, to investigate too and M.M. was also intrigued.

My only real quibbles about this current best-seller are that neither hb or pb have an index and the number of pictures in the latter are fewer.

THE AVEBURY CYCLE by MICHAEL DAMES (Thamaes & Hudson, £6-50)

With his last book, "The Silbury Mystery", Michael Dames took on prehistoric structure and argued convincingly its form and location as being an expression of the Neolithic religion. In "The Avebury Circle" he widens his scope to a larger area of Wiltshire and with painstaking research into comparative religion, archetypal psychology, folklore, customs and place names, sets out to visualize in the prehistoric structures of Avebury and its environs how the turning year of farming folk was expressed and also how there also lies a Great Goddess image comprising 27 Neolithic long barrows and circles across 50 square miles. I understand Mr Dames is now pursuing the overall pattern of prehistory over the entire country, and the lack of relating the Avebury pattern to other published accounts of localized landscape engineering, such as the proliferation of terrestrial zodiacs, is the book's only fault and presumably to be shortly rectified.

With 196 illustrations, a mixture of contemporary photographs of Silbury Hill, Avebury henge, West Kennet long barrow, the serpentine avenues, and evocative line drawings by William Stukely, the cycle from winter hag to spring snake, the May wedding, and to harvest at Silbury is given the visual portraiture it deserves.

As he comments: "The Avebury monuments did not so much insinuate the superhuman images INTO the landscape as draw forth the images already there."

Textually, Dames is thorough to the point of bordering upon overwriting, but the splendid layout of the book gives it the flavour of a popular book though Dames is a graduate of geography and archaeology.

Yet he will not please orthodoxy, for upon focussing on long barrows he finds, "Turning to the experts for an answer (to their great length), we are offered an eerie silence...." or on the subject of Stukeley's serpentine avenues, "For 200 years antiquarians and archaeologists rained furious blows on this theory, until today it is considered absolutely harmless because quite dead...."

But neither would all alternative antiquarians agree that "we now know of Neolithic society in England that it was notably classless and peaceful", which is a view I endorse, but is far from taken universally. I would not, however, personally endorse so easily a belief in human sacrifice, as posited here.

The matriarchal and sexual emphasis is all well and good, but there have been many different and complimentary views expressed about the sites here and Dames fails to put the landscape into a truly psychic context.

Whatever its faults, this book's speculative contents provide a vastly superior understanding of the monuments of Wiltshire than can be found in orthodox archaeological works.

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THE NATURALIZED ANIMALS OF THE BRITISH ISLES by CHRISTOPHER LEVER (Hutchinson, £7-50).

Once upon a time I worked for a now defunct Teesside newspaper and travelling to work by train one day was amazed to see a wallaby on the marshy ground by the railway line. Now flamingoes are seen in that vicinity. Last night's ITV "News at Ten" had a film report on parakeets in S.-E. England, feared to have the capacity to become serious marauders of fruit orchards.

There are two varieties of fauna which lie outside the orthodox naturalists' domain: what may be regarded as "phenomenal" or "Fortean" and that which has been naturalized and can be "explained". For the benefit of the person who prefers "accepted" statements, I must express that there is a viewpoint which sees certain beasts of Britain as having a separate or phenomenal reality, such as the Surry puma in particular and other weird discoveries such as bears or apes when no zoos or individuals report escapes, but Mr Lever does not concern himself with this aspect. In fact, he is painstaking to record in detail the releases -- or likely escape routes -- of the beasts and birds under his scrutiny.

I mention the wallaby first as he does so, too, but my representative bears no relation to his two locations: the Peak District and Surrey. His criteria are those of a scientific mind, hence no pumas. Maybe it is as well, so his readers

can sleep safely in their beds, feeling that the worst that can befall them is being unnerved by a seeing a porcupine (which proves not so dangerous as The Press has claimed).

However, Mr Lever allowed the multitude of inexplicable cases of exotic wildlife where breeding colonies were dubious, this book would have been unwieldy. It is actually 600 large pages long and enormously detailed. Its comprehensive nature is staggering and is supported by an enormous bibliography. Not only is the size impressive, but its layout and concept, with sketch maps of distribution locations, line drawings of the described aliens (a selection of photographs would have added interest, but for its size the price is a cinch), detailed studies of the introducers (including a lengthy summation of the work and policies of The Acclimatisation Society), and the capability of immigrants to establish themselves and their effects on native wildlife. Throughout, the depth of inquiry impresses and the writing is authoratative, though admittedly dull. Also the feel for wildlife has a certain lifelessness. There is no feel for involvement or excitement. He even descends to the immorality of the mentality of those who wish to exploit, imprison and torture wildlife when describing gerbils as "increasingly popular in the U.S. and in Britain as pets and for laboratory experiments, for both of which purposes they are exceptionally well suited." The book does not moralize on the commercial aspects of introducing the newcomers described either for food, tourism or pelts (as I write the otter is now "safe" in England and Wales and so the hunting fraternity looks to coypu and mink for prey -- and what hound can distinguish between mink and otter?), but by the clinical approach I feel Mr Lever would never have considered such aspects.

Here is a book which can be said to have earned the status it rightly deserves as a classic on how our meagre indigenous stock of beasts has been added to by man along with the basic journalistic questions of how, where, when, why, by whom, and how they have settled down.

My fear is that this book will encourage more than the mere day tripper to seek red-necked wallabies, but allow the huntsman to locate new sport. In a civilised society this book would be unrepachable, but in a barbaric time such as ours it could do irreparable harm compared with the worlds of "Watership Down" and James Herriott's tales.

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A DICTIONARY OF FAIRIES by KATHARINE BRIGGS (Penguin Books, £1-50)

The scope of this book is far wider than the title suggests, but it conveys the purpose and character of the work. Designed to be a reference book for anyone requiring to know the where, when and whyfore of the fauna of the supernatural realms, it also makes a good read in its own right, though it will no doubt be used more for browsing rather than a cover-to-cover trip through fairyland. With enormously intricate cross-referencing the researcher and general reader will find themselves spending a happy hour flipping from entry to entry; a process which reinforces the interlocking relationships between various sub-species of the Queen of Elfland's subjects. Here are elves, goblins, brownies, spunkies, magicians, wizards, giants, mermaids, dragons of all shapes and sizes, friends and fiends. A panorama of our folkloric heritage is presented, largely from old published accounts, done at great length (and even then only, as admitted, only covering a fraction of the recorded lore) as a work of loving care and scholarship. The River Wear is not in Yorkshire; but it would be churlish to nit-pick.

What does rather alarm me, however, about the work is the author's attitude, seemingly buttressed by agnosticism, that the actual possibility of the subject matter's reality is irrelevant; the aim of the folklorist being to trace the origins of the study material. Maybe much evolving lore to do with modern technology is thus missed (gremlins, for instance, being omitted).

Nevertheless, with its enormous coverage cross-referencing and prodigious classification of folktales this book can be recommended to both serious student and the casual reader.

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THE DRAGON by Charles Gould & others (Wildwood House, £2-50)

Probably compiled around 1890, this selection of dragonlore is edited by Malcolm Smith, and gives a far-ranging account of this fabulous beast's many attributes as related by the many civilizations and cultures which have embraced its archetypal presence. There are dragons of all shapes and sizes, benevolent and destructive, fathers of emperors and combatants of heroes and gods, creatures for all times and beasts for all seasons.

The author makes no claim to attempting anything bordering on the scale of a definitive work, stating that his contribution is designed as a sampler, a whetstone of an appetite for more dragon research and hopefully a spur to others extending his observations on the "broader and salient features" of the subject.

There is plenty of theorising -- that the dragon was once physical reality; the conflict represented good v bad, order v chaos; dragon=stormcloud, knight=sun, maiden=earth.

It is, however, hardly a creation of order itself, reading as it does like a scissors and paste job of notes hardly more than randomly pieced together. There be two basic sections, of Western and Eastern dragons, subdivided into serpents, winged serpents, classical and mediaeval dragons; Chinese dragon, Japanese dragon; both with appendices. Often repetitive, especially in dealing with tales of what are merely particularly large snakes. In his conclusion he argues forcefully the case for an extinct, long, terrestrial, hibernating, carnivorous lizard which gave rise to dragon legends. Also he produces an ingenious solution to the association between swallows and dragons.

Altogether a worthy addition to published dragonology, with plenty of line illustrations, easy-to-read type, and notes in a large format paperback.

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BOOKLETSBOOKLETSBOOKLETSBOOKLETS....

OUR SAVIOUR
by JOHN MICHELL

(Open Head Press,
2 Blenheim Crescent,
London W11 1NN, £1.)

As I write this, the Gay News appeal against blasphemous libel cranks its way through our dubious legal system. The full title of this Radical Traditionalist Papers, No. 4, is "To Represent Our Saviour as 'that great cock' (Kirkup -- Gay News) is not blasphemy but eternal Christian orthodoxy". As a Gnostic Christian of ten years standing I naturally support this paper of John's, expressing solidarity with the unfortunate professor pilloried by the narrow-minded brigade (led by Mary Whitehouse) who see genitalia as exposable only in the bedroom and for the benefit of one's spouse only. The fact that the poem which has focused the wrath of the so-called moralists appeared in a publication for homosexuals is irrelevant. A lucid and opinionated commentator, John never ceases to amaze me with his activities. To the public at large he is the ace alternative antiquarian, but he has espoused causes of differing and perhaps dubious merit ranging from sympathy for Michael Abdul Malik to taking on the vile Metrication Board. He is a genuinely compassionate person and this latest crusading pamphlet deserves attention. As announced on the cover, there is irrefutable proof that the basic spiritual dynamic cannot be divorced from sexuality and the motives of those who wish to create a separation are either evil, misguided or pitiable. The courts may condemn such a statement as "For the last time I laid my lips around the tip of that great cock, the instrument of our salvation, our eternal joy", but here is an exposition of why this need not seem unclean. Without being facetious, Mrs W. has taken on more than she can chew! You cannot legislate against reality.

ONGAR ZODIAC by JIM KIMMIS

(I.G.R. Occasional Paper,
No. 9, 142 Pheasant Rise,
Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD)

Following the form adopted by Philip Hesilton in his booklet on the Holderness Zodiac, Jim Kimmis first gives brief descriptions of the individual zodiac figures, then examines the terrestrial zodiac as a whole under a series of thematic headings. Rightly Jim K. notes that he finds the "second approach to be more useful in that it allows the zodiac to be considered as one individual structure, a whole that is 'greater than the sum of its parts'." It is a thorough-going account, with such aspects tackled in depth as dating, place names, church

THE FANATIC. Various people have been producing this revolutionary, offbeat new activity -- you can produce an issue yourself; just use the logo! No. 3. A special pets issue to enrage Darwinians, chainers of chimps for tea parties, dog food producers and dog owners and foxhunters. There are prophecies from a fox and Mother Shipton, a great deal of sense from Heathcote Williams and John Michell in the guise of an ape. From John at 11 Miles's Buildings, Bath, Avon (or Somerset if you prefer)((and wish to enrage the Post Office -- natch)). No. 5. A bumper issue. I thought it distressing enough that John Michell is an avid "Daily Telegraph" reader, but when a visitor to his home told me had been shocked to find huge amounts of Hitlerian literature I wondered if his interests had seriously switched from Wilhelm Reich to the Third Reich and the N.F. Actually he'd been busying himself with a book, "The Hip-Pocket Hitler", from which extracts appear here to put Adolf into perspective as a challenger of orthodox beliefs, humorous and in many ways commonsensical and prophetic. Abbie Hoofman by comparison appears naive and banal for all his former street credibility. For conspiracy freaks "Skeleton Key to the Genstone File" sounds frighteningly credible and the attacks on Q.E. II may be anathema to most but cannot be ignored. Lavishly illustrated throughout 60 pages this is a cinch at the price and a worthy successor to that style of underground Press which was epitomised by "OZ" at its peak.

There is an interesting letter from L. Squeaky Fromme plus a photograph of her which looks like one of those in "adult" mags where exhibitionists like to see themselves naked for all to behold, also a photograph of a bisexual and a mock-up topless Q.E. II (John Michell's anagram of her name is paradoxical after having Prince Charles accept a dedication for his "The Old Stones of Land's End"). Brian Patten has a drunken poem and of the cartoons R. Crumb's is desperately funny. However, not for the squeamish. No attempt is made to expurgate the language. From Open Head Press, 2 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 (£1).

QUEST. A leading journal on the West's magical heritage. Single copies 50p; annual sub £1-75, from BCM--SCL Quest, London WC1V 6XX. No. 32. Articles on yoga, tarot, psi, Aquarian Age, magic, dowsing and winter solstice, plus letters, announcements and book reviews.

NEW VEGETARIAN. Available generally. 20p. December 1977. Professional and is to vegetarianism what Prediction is to astrology -- half adverts, features, book reviews, products and services, crossword, diary and letters -- and even has a star guide to "conniseur and guzzler" by astrologer Roger Elliot, plus articles on digestion, frogs' legs, fatigue, etc.

I.T. Certain bookshops 30p. Vol. 4, No. 2. First time I've seen I.T. in its new incarnation. Perhaps the politico/atrocity element is unduly prominent. FRENZ was the only underground major publication to support the I.R.A. and it was rightly sneered upon. Here it is the German situation under scrutiny, but on page 7 we're in familiar flowerpower era homeland territory with the headline "At Last A Notting Hill Inquiry" and a column on drugs beside it. There's journalistic anarchy and cartoons so the spirit remains though times change. Good book reviews. Spoiled by a committed but hysterically boring piece on the G.L.C.

FORTEAN TIMES. Quarterly miscellany of news, notes and references on strange phenomena. From P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP. £3. No. 23. This issue is fantastic value with the addition of a 12-page review supplement. Subjects in this issue focused upon include animal mutilations, encounters with strange entities and teleportation, ice falls, Fortean corrigenda on S.H.C., and mystery bangs. There is part two of Larry Arnold's fire leynes concept which I admit to finding rather far-fetched and it seems many find Doc Shiels too good to be true yet I found his article on monster hunting rivetting. Robert Anton Wilson is also a born word-soinner and "The 23 Phenomena" is a mindbender article. News and letters are included. The review supplement brings the Fortean up to date with the multiplicity of books published last year on subjects which question the general paradigms of the various -ologies, written spiritedly and in depth. Harbacks, paperbacks and journals.

THE LEY HUNTER. Our premier magazine of earth mysteries, splendidly produced from P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP, Bi-monthly. £2-70. Editor Paul Devereux in No. 78 writes of his an Ian Thompson's monumental ley hunting trek for book material; John Billingsley recalls megaliths he has seen in Southern India; Gordon Richards lays into strange egg-shaped stones; Paul Screeton writes on "The Ordnance Survey, Parliament and You"; Guy Ragland Phillips is on Rosedale lodestone; Patricia Villiers-Stuart on "Number Geometry"; plus reviews, magazine notes, notes in general and readers' letters. Wide-ranging and highly original work. No. 79. Colin Wilson probes supernatural happenings around Windsor; Sam Wildman on a proto-zodiac (?); a Middlesex ley; Bob Forrest wetting his wellies at Land's End; Paul Screeton on folklore; Don Robins on mysterious light and ancient sites; leys in Bolivia; photographs of personalities at Moot '77; but the most intriguing piece is by James Brooks on the ancient geomancers (Paul D. plays spoilsport and just as it gets really fascinating chooses to edit out a section). Gets better every issue.

SUT ANUBIS. Quarterly. Annual sub. £2. Single copies 55p, inc. p&p. To Occultique, 73 Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4AW. Vol. 1 No. 2. Aubrey Melech on "The Three Prime Laws of Magic"; Pete Nalder on a Ghosts and Witches Club trip to ancient sites in Berks.; F. Ussim on Sufism; R. Birkett on UFOs; plus features on herbs and herbal highs; more magic; book reviews; addresses and contacts of magazines and groups.

PULSAR. From 29 Bairstow Street, Preston, Lancs., PR1 3TN. Bi-monthly. Cover price 20p. Vol. 1 No. 3. "The Ongar Zodiac: A Lightning Tour" by Jim Kimmis; Jenny Randles commenting on the Lamanché Zodiac; astronomical notes; report on NUFON UFO conference.

SPIRALS. Bi-monthly. £2-50. From P.O. Box 29472, San Francisco, Calif., 94129, USA. This mag. seeks to correlate esoteric thoughts with modern knowledge and provide a forum where the "them" and "us" situation is resolved upon a common platform. Marcel Vogel gives examples of how the physicist can perform experiments to lead him towards spiritual awareness -- to tap cosmic energy. Don Robins, too, contributes notes on "The Enigma of the Cup and Ring Marks". A refreshing publication aimed at creating a dialogue between scientists and those of an esoteric kind.

NESS INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER. From R.R. Hepple, Huntshildford, St John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 1RQ. Intermittent. £1-25. No. 23. Round-up of news on lake monster sightings and personalities and their efforts to substantiate the existence of such creatures. News of the work of Tim Dinsdale and Bob Rines; coverage of Loch Ness, Loch Morar, Lake Champlain, N.Z.; UFOs; new books; the Loch Ness stone circles; and more. No. 24. Covers news from Canada; waterspouts; "otters"; foreign hunters; the poisonous possibilities of monsters; a sighting; etc. No. 25. Are there warmblooded beasties?; further sighting info.

MUFOB. (Metempirical UFO Bulletin). Q. £1-25. From John Rimmer, 11 Beverley Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4AW. Unfettered by any particular theories, but sensibly aligned towards a paraufological these, it has no nonsense whatsoever and issue 42 keeps the mag. as the most informative (and should be most influential) UFO 'zine. Alan W. Sharp takes in hand UFO effects and though he is methodical I could argue with his hypotheses, he is at least constructive; Nigel Watson and John Fletcher also focus upon ufological points; but the basically constructive (yet not entirely fair in my opinion) book reviews are a major feature. No. 43. The editor on "Facts, Fraud and Fairytales", giving coherent reasons why even hoaxers or fiction can be drawing upon archetypal ufological experience where the borderline between real and unreal blurs; Danish "sirship" in 1908; Peter Rogerson on "Fairies & Fireballs"; plus continuing sighting catalogue, notes and quotes, and reviews. A UFO mag. which does not insult the intelligence.

LANTERN. Q. mag. of Borderline Science Investigation Group. Cover price 15p from Ivan Bunn, 3 Dunwich Way. Lowestoft, Suffolk. No. 19. M.W. Burgess in soporific mood returns to stones for the umpteenth time (though no complaints here); editor Ivan Bunn continues "Black Shuck" sightings in depth; UFO news; East Anglian fortean miscellany; news round-up; tales of a crossroads by Nigel Pennick; plus reviews of books by John Michell and Jacques Vallee. No. 20. More black shuck and more M.W. Burgess stone hunting, specially for Dr Rudge's puddingstones; a Victorian ghost story; plus usual features.

THE JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY. Q. Journal of the Institute of Geomantic Research. Membership £3 p.a. inc. journals and occasional papers published during sub. period. Issues 60p each. Vol. 2 No. 2. Paul Screeton with Chris Castle speculate on an old "UFO" picture; zodiac hunters have a new example, new guardian dog and iconographic research; W.H. Black and A. Watkins connected (?); a dragon legend; orientation; numbers; letters and notes. From 142 Pheasant Rise, Cambridge.

UNDERCURRENTS. Subs. to 12 South Street, Uley, Dursley, Glos. Bi-monthly 50p. No. 25. An article on "Emotional Plague" asks why collectives and co-ops tear themselves apart and looks for answers in Wilhelm Reich; Mike Reid relates the current state of play at Findhorn; water mills; community radio; phone tapping; punk rock; alternative technology; news and reviews. No. 26. Technology and revolution in Portugal; Martin Ince argues that the Ruskies aren't coming; the worthy New Age Access gets a nice plug; dope growing with humour being the most interesting article; not too much to my liking this time.

THE ATLANTIAN. Q. Annual sub. £1-30 from The Atlanteans, 42 St George's Street, Cheltenham, GL50 4AF. No. 171. Cattie Burland on Atlantis theorising; Joyce Mitchell on the Moon (well not physically); sound comments on alternative medicine; music; astrology; Betty Wood's "Signs of the Times" round-up; reviews.

MAPIT SKYWATCH. Q. From 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE. No price given. No. 26. Tendency towards ETH approach in articles and letters though Jenny Randles asks "Where Have All The Martians Gone?". A generally fragmented issue though plenty of items.

UFO RESEARCH REVIEW. 25p. From R.W. Morrell, 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB. No. 1 Vol. 3. Andy Collins lengthily on "UFOs in Buckinghamshire"; NUFON annual conference report; UFO sightings in Nodds, Italy and Australia. No. 2 Vol. 3. Schizoid issue with much on UFO films and backhanded congrats to MUFON allegedly tending "to be a little old fashioned and rather conservative" whereas this mag. echoes weakly New Ufology in John Hind's unoriginal article and the editor lets his prejudice against anything "non-scientific" show all too clearly.

NEARA JOURNAL. Q. 1.50 dollars. Published by New England Antiquities Research Association, 4 Smith Street, Milford, N.H., 05055. Vol. 12, No. 1. Spirit Pond Shellheap archaeological report; ingenious engineering suggestions for megalithic construction; unusual artifacts; chronology; diagrams; articles catalogue.

S.I.S. REVIEW. Q. journal of the Society for Interdisciplinary Studies. From 18 Fir Tree Court, Allum Lane, Elstree, Herts. One year £5-50; students £3-50. Vol II, No. 1. Editor Malcolm Lowery and M.G. Roade separately on Senmut's Ceiling and its astronomical charts; articles/reviews touching on the material of I. Velikovskiy's "Peoples of the Sea" and "Worlds in Collision"; Eric Crew on "Electromagnetism in Astronomy"; plus letters and notices.

PICWINNARD. The mag. of Wessex leys and folklore. Bi-monthly. £2. From Hythe Bow, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3EH. New to me and full of interest. F. Le Vere on pagan carvings; Brian Pitt on trees; Vince Russett on old stones; a piece on Bristol's origins; leys; plenty of other titbits.

((Cont. from Page 6)).....

dedications, prehistoric monuments and moats, puddingstones, witchcraft, folklore. The interrelationship between of sites is discussed and one of the maps shows the geographical positions of the Ongar and Nuthampstead zodiacs.

The mixture of commonsense and speculation with intellect and intuition balance to provide a convincing argument for this terrestrial zodiac's existence. The booklet's production is also to be highly commended.

PRINCIPLES OF PREHISTORIC SACRED GEOGRAPHY by Dr J. HEINSCH

From I.G.R. address above, translated by Michael Behrend and introduction by Nigel Pennick. I reviewed this book in THE LEY HUNTER No. 67 when Tony Roberts' Zodiac House published it; now Nigel has reprinted it with virtually identical introduction but a couple of extra diagrams are included.

So forget that the Nazi Party at the time this paper was written (1938) was hell bent on establishing a doctrine of archaeology to substantiate a prehistoric

Germanic golden age in seclusion to the remainder of the world. Heinsch seems to have been peddling his own version embracing Stonehenge and Palestine, and expecting a universal system of alignments of specific lengths between sacred sites and angles of intersection based upon astronomical considerations. This book has had a reputation in the past as it was to have been read in Amsterdam in 1938 but other business stopped it being presented. Apart from its historical value and also the likelihood that it is entirely independent of Alfred Watkins's ley thesis, the conclusions on a metrological plane are most interesting, but he makes also a number of speculations on the quality of prehistoric life. He makes it plainly obvious that our ancestors' capabilities in the realms of surveying were well advanced, that astronomy was important and that above all the motive was spiritual.

JOURNEY ROUND THE GLASTONBURY

ZODIAC by BRUCE LACEY & JILL

BRUCE (From authors at 10 Martello Street, London E8, 50p plus postage).

This is a record of the authors' spiritual Somerset trip with poems by Jill and photographs by both. It is an evocative production, combining verse, information and illustrations relating to the sectors of the Glastonbury Zodiac

and the activities they performed therein. The journey was basically unplanned in detail except that they wished to be in Libra for the autumn equinox and had planned beforehand an activity for Aquarius, having been there previously. The illustrations are weird and slightly reminiscent of the famous Cottingley fairies photographs which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle interested himself in. My children were extremely fascinated by them. Also the poems are rousing reflections of rural reality. Sample for instance:

"Upon this equinoctial eve
Cows calve.

Their labouring cries hang loud on the still air.
Calves lay wet, cow-licked upon the grass,
Struggling to their feet.

This miracle of birth - age - old
Whose destiny lies in the Sunday Joint."

Altogether a
fine homage to
a terrestrial
zodiac.

LOCAL CURIOSITIES by I. BUNN &

M. BURGESS; HAUNTED LOWESTOFT

by same authors (From East Suffolk and Norfolk Antiquarians, 21 Kirkley Gardens, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

The former is subtitled "A miscellany of ghosts, legends and unusual facts"; and regular readers of "Lantern" magazine will be familiar with some of the strange folklore which has been building under the same title regularly in that fine magazine. Mike Burgess's favourite

topic has been a mainstay of "Lantern", and stories with weird superstitions are well acknowledged alongside concise but interestingly written tales of haunted roads, black dogs, the Devil, sea serpents, topographical traditions and magic trees. The text follows a route format and is elegantly illustrated with pictures of subject matter both old and new. My favourite paragraph being: "Towards the end of the last century, there stood between Lowestoft and Oulton Broad the Blasted Stump, and it was the custom for local people to make special trips here to let off steam when they felt the need. This was done by simply directing torrents of abuse (no doubt tempered with some good Anglo-Saxon invectives) at the unfortunate tree. However, the spectacle of so many people filling the air with abuse was too much for the 'respectable' folk of the area, and a bye-law was passed forbidding the practise." Ivan Bunn has designed this book with loving care and it is a welcome addition to local printings of material of our folkloric heritage.

"Haunted Lowestoft" simply relates legends of haunted spots in the town and its vicinity, both ancient and modern, with mentions of contemporary watches at spooky sites by members of the Borderline Science Investigation Group. It does not seek to explain; always a precarious business, though professional publishers prefer it. So the reader receives his tales objectively and without the editing out of those which do not fit that preconceived theory so generally foisted upon the purchaser. The authors say they are scratching the surface of the ghostlore of their neck of

((* Full title adds "from the Lowestoft Area".))

11.

the woods yet with the diversity here it is interesting to compare with those in other parts of Britain.

THE ATLANTEANS

April 11 this year is a special date for The Atlanteans for on it the society celebrates its 21st birthday. As a society it is still unfamiliar to some, yet over these years it has grown considerably in size and reputation. Founded in 1957 by four dedicated people, it now has an extensive international membership with branches throughout Britain and in other countries. The aim of The Atlanteans has, from the very beginning, been to seek an understanding of life that benefits not only those who participate in the search but mankind generally and all other forms of existence, too. Under the guidance of Helio-Arcanophus members have carefully explored avenues of healing, meditation, psychism, mysticism and philosophy with the result that today the society published various courses and set of teachings. They also produce a newsletter, "Atlanteanews" and a quarterly magazine, THE ATLANTEAN. No. 172 includes Marcus McCausland on "Health For The New Age"; Edmund Quincy on vegetarianism; David Stasin on Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation; Susan Rocliff on karma and reincarnation; plus other articles, book reviews and notices. Annual sub., £1-80, from The Atlanteans, 42 St George's Street, Cheltenham, GL50 4AF. The society has already begun a major programme of expansion including joint ventures with groups who see mankind's predicament in a similar way. The Atlanteans will again be exhibiting at the Festival of Mind and Body at Olympia (April 29 - May 7) and is helping to organize, along with other groups in the Glos. area a local festival entitled Think '78 -- Cheltenham's Festival for Creative Thought and Living.

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Plenty more books and magazines are awaiting review in ANCIENT SKILLS AND WISDOM REVIEW and several are already to be put on to stencil. Consequently I hope to have issue 5 out fairly soon.

Those whose subscriptions terminate with this issue will find a cross in the square below.

